



Arthur A. Horton, Inc.
Canton Business Park
97 River Road
Canton, Connecticut 06019
(860) 693.6388
(860) 693.6517 FAX

987

Before The Labor and Public Employees Committee
OPPOSING
SB-987, An Act Requiring Community Workforce Agreements for Construction Projects at the
Connecticut State University System
March 1, 2011

I am the Vice President of a small electrical contractor in CT. We employ 36 employees specializing in Water and Waste Water Treatment Facilities. Our company has been in business since 1977 working cohesively with union and nonunion general contractors alike and have never failed to complete a job we have been awarded.

I plead with you to oppose all Community Workforce Agreements, including SB-987, as they are unfair to the majority of Connecticut contractors.

I grew up in a union household, my father being the president of a very large union in the state of CT. I understand the importance of employees being treated fairly and having proper representation when needed. What I do not find fair is that you would allow an organization representing such a small portion of the labor force to have that much control over what happens in this state.

We pay our employees prevailing wage rates and provide them with many benefits. I don't believe our employees feel they are treated unfairly or require a union be involved with our company. That can be proven by our extremely low rate of employee turnover. There is very little work out there and now there will be even less available for us to bid because of your desire to exclude merit shops.

I am sure most of you either have a family member, neighbor or friend that is a non-union electrician, plumber, carpenter, etc. How do you think they are going to feel when they find out you have signed a bill basically telling them they are not qualified to work on University of CT jobs because of their choice not to be part of a union? I always thought it was an employee's choice to be union or non-union. They pay taxes in this state – taxes that help pay for the work done at the University and you are going to tell them they are not qualified to do the work. How do you think the employer feels? They are considered to be an unreasonable and unqualified bidder simply because they do not want to sign a Community Workforce Agreement – a union contract?

Why don't you care about good hard working companies, and employees in this state???? What are we supposed to tell our employees? They take great pride in their work and always put in a full hard day's work, and depend on us acquiring jobs so they can afford to keep their homes and provide for their families. Why should our employees, who are actively involved in their community, be excluded from working on University of CT campuses?

It makes me sad to know you will never give any of the hard working merit shop employees another thought. This is the United States of America! What is happening here? Why are we being discriminated against?

Thank you,

Kathleen K. Deming